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# LARGE FRENCH FLEET COMING

**Men Will Be Released from  
Army to Man Vessels on  
Grand Bank.**

St. Pierre and Miquelon, the little colony which is France's last remaining possession in North America, has been called upon to contribute to the French forces in the field of war. Mail advices received by fishing interests here tell of the sailing of the island's contingent of 300 men for France, aboard the steamer Chicago. The liner made a special stop at St. Pierre by order of the French admiralty officials, interrupting a voyage from New York to Havre.

It was the hope of the fisher-folk, who constitute the greater part of the population of 4000 on the two islands southwest of Newfoundland, that their isolated colony might not be drawn into the conflict. A movement originating with the few business interests of the colony for a contribution to the French Red Cross met with ready responses and \$5000 was sent to Paris.

## Only 300 Physically Fit.

In addition the government administrator, F. X. Chaubauche, announced that the colony would be expected to send 800 men to fight for France. But physicians found only 300 men whom they could certify as physically fit and it was decided to send that number. The contingent includes youths of 200 and men of all ages up to 42 years. Practically all the men drafted earned their living from the fisheries. Fears that the departure of these men will ruin the fishing industry is expressed in letters received here, but it is said also that French fishing interests have notified the St. Pierre authorities that they will send 112 sailing vessels and about 40 steam trawling craft to the north Atlantic this spring to prosecute the fisheries as usual. Most of the men of Brittany who come to the Grand Banks to fish have joined the French army or navy. Many of them will be released, it is understood, so that the fishing fleet may be properly manned. The fact that so many men would be taken from the barracks to fish, and that 300 had gone from the colony's fisheries to war, was mentioned by the correspondent as a seeming inconsistency which had occasioned some discussion at St. Pierre.

The people of the two islands had some anxiety during the early days of the war that an attempt might be made to seize their colony. Neither island is protected in any way, and no defence could be offered. British and French cruisers have maintained a constant patrol of the waters of the north Atlantic for months, but no warships of any nation has been sighted from the islands.

The fact that a war is in progress, and that France is involved, has been forcibly brought home to the people of the islands, according to advices received here. Censorship is strict, it is said, and some opposition has been

expressed to the manner of its enforcement. "The administration of the colony is strict; our letters are opened, and even business telegrams are stopped," the correspondent said.

# CRAB RESTORES COLLINS' 'T. D.'

The steam trawler Surf, Michael Green, master, was raking on Georges last Monday, which is her trade. Patrick Collins of South Boston took his trick at the wheel, lighting a pipe to keep him company. It was a duceen purchased at Atlantic avenue, where they sell pipes marked T. D., guaranteed to draw like a flue and sweet to the keel.

The Surf was rolling to the long heave and, as the pilot house was uncomfortably warm, Collins dropped one of the windows into its pocket and leaned out for a whiff of air. Somebody asked Collins something and, in replying, he bit off the stem of the pipe and the bowl, thus converted into a humble nose-warmer, plunked into the sea. Collins loved that particular pipe, having zealously broken it in before breaking it off.

After a time the crew hauled up the Surf's otter trawl and dumped it on deck. The contents flopped and flapped and somersaulted and, to Collins' amazement his pipe crept out of the confusion in grasp of a grandfather crab's claw. Collins knew the trawl had been operated 250 feet below the surface, but he was not prepared to assume the crab had appropriated the clay and had a drag at it where he had left off. Collins cautiously rescued the pipe, scraped out the moistened crust, reloaded it and was having a contented smoke when the Surf docked at the Boston fish pier Wednesday.

## English Trawlers May Come Over Here.

The temporary closing of the North Sea fishery seems to have turned the eyes of European fishermen to the North West Atlantic fishing grounds, and we would not be surprised to see a number of British trawlers next season. The French will be in smaller numbers than ever, as most of the French deep sea fishermen have joined their country's navy. Some of our own Western fishermen propose to try steam trawlers next season, despite the

ill success of similar ventures a few years ago, when it was demonstrated that the bottom is too rough and uneven for fishing of this kind. If our Banks are to be exploited in this way, by outsiders, the indirect effect on our fishing industry may be very harmful indeed. Hon. John Harvey, who has made a deep study of the question, expressed this same sentiment at the Board of Trade meeting the other day. —St. John's N. F. Trade Review.

# ARTISAN BRINGS FROZEN HERRING

**Big Craft Here Today With  
Nice Cargo of Much  
Needed Goods.**

The British sch. Artisan, arrived last evening, it being the first off shore arrival since Monday. She brings 650 barrels frozen and 197 barrels pickled herring and 200,000 pounds salt codfish, being consigned to the Gorton-Pew Fisheries Company, it is understood.

Steamer Quoddy was the only gill netter to lift yesterday, having 2500 pounds fresh fish.

## Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

British sch. Artisan Bay of Islands, N. F., 200,545 lbs. salt codfish, 650 bbls. frozen herring, 197 bbls. pickled herring, 25 bbls. split herring, 1 bbl. salmon, 5 bbls. caplin 1 box fish skins. Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

## TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

### Salt Fish.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5 per cwt.; medium, \$4.25; snappers, 3. Georges halibut codfish, large, \$5; medium, \$4.25. Eastern halibut codfish, large, \$4.25; medium, \$3.75; snappers, \$3. Cusk, large, \$2.50; medium, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.50. Hake, \$1.50. Haddock, \$1.75. Pollock, \$1.50. Newfoundland herring, \$3.25 per bbl. for salt bulk, \$4.25 per bbl. for pickled.

### Fresh Fish.

Splitting prices: Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt. Western cod, large, \$2.25; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c. Eastern cod, large, \$2; medium, \$1.50; snappers, 75c. All codfish, not gilled, 10c per 100 pounds less than above. Hake, \$1.25. Cusk, large, \$1.75; medium, \$1.15; snappers, 50c. Pollock, round, 80c; dressed, 90c. Fresh halibut 11c for white and 7 1-2c for gray.

Newfoundland frozen herring, 3c per lb.

## Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Mystery arrived at Shelburne, N. S., Tuesday last and cleared.

## Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Catherine Burke, Capt. William McKay, is at Portland today with 30,000 pounds fresh halibut.

# OFF-SHORES AT NEW FISH PIER

**Arethusa, Stiletto and Com-  
na Among the Big Week-  
End Visitors.**

T wharf had two arrivals and the fish pier at South Boston six fares this morning. At the former, sch. Matthew S. Greer made her second appearance this week, yesterday afternoon with a 20,000 pound fare, while during the night sch. Stranger arrived with 100 pounds.

At the new pier four of the off shore fellows were in. They were sch. Arethusa, 65,000 pounds; Stiletto, 30,000 pounds; Corona, 36,000 pounds; Robert and Arthur, 38,000 pounds. From the shore were schs. Margaret Dillon and Alice.

Prices were well down, wholesalers paying \$3 to \$4.75 a hundred pounds, \$5 to \$5.50 for large cod, \$3 for market cod, \$4.50 to \$7.50 for hake, \$4.50 for pollock and \$2 for cusk.

## Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

### ARRIVALS AT T WHARF.

Sch. Matthew S. Greer, 18,000 haddock, 800 cod, 1000 hake. Sch. Stranger, 4500 haddock, 3500 cod, 3500 hake.

### ARRIVALS AT BOSTON FISH PIER.

Sch. Arethusa, 50,000 haddock, 5000 hake, 3000 cusk. Sch. Stiletto, 30,000 haddock, 1000 cod, 6000 cusk. Sch. Corona, 25,000 haddock, 5000 cod, 5000 cusk. Sch. Robert and Arthur, 35,000 haddock, 3500 cod. Sch. Margaret Dillon, 1000 haddock, 12,000 cod. Sch. Alice, 3000 haddock, 1500 3000 hake. Haddock, \$3 to 4.75 per cwt.; cod, \$5 to \$5.50; market cod, \$3 to \$4.50 to \$7.50; pollock, \$1.50; cusk, \$2.

# HADDOCKERS MAKING MONEY

Sch. Somerville, Capt. Felix H. stocked \$3080 on her maiden haddocking trip, the crew's part being clear.

Sch. Conqueror, Capt. Robert Giffly, stocked \$2000 on her haddocking trip at Boston this week, the crew sharing \$44 clear.

Sch. Gladys and Nellie, Capt. J. Dwyer, another of the market, stocked \$2350 and the crew shared \$58 clear.



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# LIFAX REVIEW OF FISH MATTERS

the Halifax, N. S., Herald: As far as the local market is concerned there has been very little change in conditions during the past night. From the fact that a cargo of Lunenburg fish was last week purchased at \$6.75, we presume we may say that prices are somewhat higher for \$6.60 was the highest figure obtained up to two weeks ago. It is said that there are now only 10,000 quintals of bank fish to be marketed and holders are giving it to be understood that they will want still higher prices. The trade, however, points to the fact that there are 150,000 qtls. of dried fish in Norway than at this time last year, that the Norwegian fishermen are only asking \$6.30, and that the difference between the price here and here is more than they will do as they have done before, namely import Norwegian fish. They claim that there is no difficulty about getting transportation from Europe. The shortage of fish is in ship's going the other way.

**Newfoundland Fish Shipped to Italy.** One of the most interesting happenings of the past fortnight is the shipment of fish in casks by sailing vessel from St. John's, N. F., to Italy. Such a thing was heretofore without precedent. In the old days there used to be many shipments of bulk cargoes but as we are told is the first time that such goods have gone forward in any other way than by steamer. No doubt Halifax will be following St. John's lead if supplies here to go forward cannot be shipped so cheaply by any other way.

The news from Porto Rico at present is not particularly good. Some of the fish stock held there are said to have deteriorated in quality, and it is so said that there are holdings in the steamer destined for Porto Rico which if true will not help to strengthen the situation. A good deal of Pacific coast fish have been finding their way to Porto Rico this season, but just that the quantity is no one here is able to tell us. This Pacific fish is not as good as ours, but its competition with Porto Rico buyers to weaken our prices. In other West India markets, conditions are normal so far as codfish is concerned, but Demerara is still over-supplied with pollock from the old country, some new arrivals having come to hand of late. We may say that it is expected here that this situation will improve shortly, and that all holdings here destined for the Demerara market will be sold at full prices. While referring to the situation in pollock we might also observe that there has been an advance in the prices of hake and haddock. The last sales of the former ex-vessel Halifax were at \$1.50 and haddock brought \$5.25. This is a rise of a dollar per quintal of the former and 75c of the latter.

**Preparations for the Spring Trip.** We hear from Lunenburg that the fishermen are making great preparations for the spring fishing, and that the vessels will be out by the middle of the first half of February, which is earlier than for some years. Their efforts are being stimulated by the knowledge that France is likely to have a small

fishery this year. Instead of her usual catch of about three-quarters of a million quintals she will probably not have more than two hundred thousand if she has that. There is good reason to suspect today that Lunenburg bank fish will bring a record price this spring, and if the weather is favorable this may be the best spring's business that the country has seen for some years. We understand that there has been no difficulty whatever in getting crews for the different vessels now being fitted out.

The export demand for herring is excellent and it is feared that supplies are likely to run short. There is also a good demand for alewives. There have been no purchases ex-vessel of late, but if there had been the prices would have been about as follows: No. 1 herring \$4 per barrel; alewives \$4; spring mackerel \$8; and fat mackerel \$10.

## HERRING COME IN GREAT SCHOOL

Every summer there is a remarkable run of herring on the north Pacific coast. These fish come in such shoals that they seem a solid moving mass. They crowd into the inlets and sheltered bays and can be taken in millions by the simplest means.

Men and boys on the Grand Trunk Pacific dock at Prince Rupert haul them out in water buckets, wire waste baskets, and similar utensils, which, with rope attached are thrown into the water and allowed to sink below the surface, then hauled in again full to overflowing with lovely herring.

But a better idea of the density of these schools of fish is afforded by the fact that fishing lines with hook attached can be sunk in the water, and pulled out instantly with just as many fish as there are hooks, be there a dozen or 50.

Tons of these herring are taken by the fish companies and frozen in boxes for use as bait for the halibut fishermen. They are an excellent table fish, and there ought to be a profitable market for them in the interior.

As yet comparatively few of them are shipped, the dealers are now calling for them. Fishermen say the herring seek the bays to escape the whales, which prey on them in certain localities during their migrations.—Montreal Journal of Commerce.

### Portland Fish News.

Portland has a new fish company. Although it is not on the records as being incorporated, nevertheless, the company is doing quite a bit of business along the waterfront, says the Portland Press. It is known as the Mediterranean Halibut Co., or "The Albes," along the waterfront, and consists of three of the most prominent fish concerns on Commercial wharf.

Thursday the allies purchased jointly the fare of the Long Island, the fishing steamer that was for some time at the Portland Co. wharves receiving repairs. She had about 15,000 pounds and her fare was taken out yesterday, the steamer receiving minor repairs at the Portland Co., Tuesday. The only other important fish arrival Thursday was the Gloucester fishing schooner Eugenia, with about 2000 pounds of halibut and 8000 pounds of fresh fish. She disposed of her fare to Willard's.

## WANT UNIFORM LOBSTER LAW

Says the Portland, Maine Express:

The uniform lobster law people are asking for a law that will allow them to catch, buy, sell or eat a small and lower priced lobster. We note that some declare that this will kill all the lobsters. Experience should teach us better than that. With this proposed change the fishermen are prohibited from saving any lobster under nine inches full length.

A correspondent of recent date would convey the idea that it is possible for us to kill all the lobsters. If 8,000,000 pounds were caught on the coast of Maine besides the thousands of small ones that were smuggled out of the State the past season, it will certainly be impossible to kill off the lobsters with the present method of fishing.

We are also informed that states with this small lobster law, have so depleted their stock of lobsters that they have had to come to the state of Maine for their supply, conveying the idea that this was the reason for such coming. The fact is that these states have always come to the coast of Maine for their supply and at the present time are reaping the benefit of our small lobsters.

Let us have the benefit of small and lower priced lobsters for two years. It will give the people of this state in moderate circumstances an opportunity to eat lobster. The people of Maine have a better right to low priced lobsters than any other state in the Union. Under the present law, however, they don't get it.

With the proposed uniform law in effect no one in this state could ship lobsters under nine inches out of Maine therefore there would be no necessity for fish wardens overhauling lobsters shipped to other states. As the majority of the people along our coast eat these small lobsters contrary to the law now it ought to remove a burden from their conscience.

Several of the large wholesale lobster dealers in the state of Maine have their branch stores in Boston. Thus is the business driven from the state of Maine because we cannot market the small lobsters from Nova Scotia. Prices in the state of Maine are exorbitant.

A local dealer said to us today:

"Talking over the phone to a lobster dealer in Boston Monday of this week, he told me 400 crates arrived from Nova Scotia on the steamer arriving Sunday and about half of them were chickens. He offered me small lobsters boiled at 25 cents a pound. This is 11 cents lower than we can sell for in Portland. With an open market we can sell small lobsters at a lower price than Boston as we are nearer Nova Scotia. The winter months are practically a close time on the state of Maine coast. If it were not for the lobsters stored up in pounds we would be without stock to supply our trade. With an open market we can get our share of the supply from Nova Scotia."

In view of the fact that the present law does not prevent an immense wholesale traffic in short lobsters and as it further fails to provide our own people with lobsters at reasonable prices, why not give the uniform nine-inch law a trial?

## CUT HIS FINGER AND SEWED IT UP

Capt. Ernest Parsons of sch. Pontiac, arriving at Boston this morning met with a severe accident on Brown's Bank last Friday, badly cutting the second finger of the left hand.

The crew were taking in the mainsail at the time, and Capt. Parsons in leaning down, jammed his hand on a bait knife, cutting one of the fingers, nearly the entire length.

With a fisherman's ingenuity, Capt. Parsons went to the medical chest and procuring the necessary materials, sewed up the wound himself, then directed the craft homeward. Upon arriving at Boston he immediately went to a physician, to have his injuries attended to.

### TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

#### Salt Fish.

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Newfoundland frozen herring, 3c per lb.

### Struck a Good Market.

The sch. Dorothy G. Snow, Capt. Ansel Snow, with about 83,000 pounds of mixed fish, arriving at Digby, N. S., last week from Brown's bank, caught a bare market and the vessel stocked \$1800. Two and three-quarter cents per pound was paid for her haddock, the highest price obtained at Digby for some years. Joseph E. Snow purchased the trip.

### Capt. Atwood Home.

Capt. Henry M. Atwood, local manager for the Atlantic Maritime Company, arrived home yesterday from Liverpool, N. S., where he superintended repairs on sch. Mildred Robinson, which recently went ashore at Shelburne. The Robinson is now on her way home to fit for another trip.